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## SMALLPOX AND VACCINATION IN CEYLON.

[Our latest numbers of the India Medical Journal contain a letter, by J. Kinnis, M.D., of Ceylon, addressed to the inhabitants of that island, on the advantages of vaccination. He appears to have collected all the local facts relating to the subject, which could possibly be obtained, and has arranged them, with the most convincing arguments, in a manner the best calculated to arouse attention to the importance of this mild preventive of one of the most loathsome of diseases. We have selected some of his statements for republication in the Journal, which will be found interesting and not without their value to the medical practitioner in every part of the world.]

For many years previous to the introduction of vaccination, great devastation was committed annually, in this island, by smallpox; according to the most moderate computation, it carried off a sixth part of the whole population; for eight years it had been at all times prevalent, in a certain degree, in the pettah, and scarcely ever failed to visit Colombo and prevail epidemically in the months of October, November, and December, during the north-east monsoon, when the port was open, and much resorted to by small craft from the opposite coast. In 1799 it appeared in the pettah of Trincomalie, where numbers died daily; and in that and the following year committed considerable ravages there, and "still more in the other parts of Ceylon, particularly in the south-west side, where it occasioned so great a mortality as to be considered in the light of a pestilence—in consequence of which the natives deserted their villages and infected relatives, on its first appearance, to the great diminution of the revenue, and the infinite distress and misery of the inhabitants." In the middle of July, 1800, it "broke out suddenly in Errore and Undewally (*Vandermal*, Cordiner), two villages in the neighborhood of Batticaloa, and so great was the panic occasioned amongst the inhabitants, by the appearance of the infection, that all those in health immediately deserted their habitations and left the helpless sick without any assistance." The elephants, chetahs, and wild hogs soon after "came down from the jungle; broke down the fences; destroyed and rooted up the trees; ate the stores of paddy and other provisions; and, what is still more horrible, carried off some of the sick, or at least consumed the bodies of the deceased. It is certain that in one house, where three sick persons had been left, not a vestige of even their remains was to be found on the return of the inhabitants." "On such occasions, the hun-

band forsakes his wife, the mother her children, and the son his father, often leaving them in their miserable huts to the ravages of famine, and the wild beasts of the forest." Dr. Christie, superintendent of hospitals, accompanied by Mr. Cordiner, chaplain to the garrison of Colombo, visited Errore and Vandermal "on the 4th September, at which time the infection had ceased, and the people had begun to return to their usual habitations; but found their former residence (lately a flourishing village) almost entirely waste and desolate, in consequence of their precipitate desertion." "The ravaged orchards exhibited scenes of terrible devastation; the mangled trees were strewed on the ground; the straw stripped from the roofs of the cottages; the surface of the earth broken up and filled with hollows; the fences shattered; earthen pots, the simple utensils for culinary purposes, wheels, reels, looms, and all the apparatus of the weavers, lying useless and forsaken." "Of the diseased in Vandermal forty people died and ten recovered." In Errore, "out of thirteen infected persons six had died, and the others had just recovered and were in a miserable state."

The distresses here described could not fail to attract attention, and the honorable Frederick North, the humane and benevolent Governor, established at Colombo, Calle, Trincomalie and Jaffna, smallpox hospitals for the reception of patients laboring under the natural disease, and for the purpose of promoting inoculation: at the same time he appointed medical attendants to take care of the infected in their villages.

From the first of October, 1800, to the 30th September, 1802, the number of patients, with natural smallpox, treated by the medical overseers in the different hospitals and villages, was 2,110; of which number 473 died, being in the proportion nearly of 1 to 4½; and the number of inoculated patients amounted to 4,158; of which number 108 died, being nearly in the proportion of 1 to 38.

Vaccination, in this island, was first successfully performed at Trincomalie, on the 11th August, 1802, with dried lymph sent from Bombay, and was speedily communicated by living subjects, or impregnated threads, to every other part of the maritime districts. Variolous inoculation being prohibited, the smallpox hospitals suppressed, and the medical superintendents and overseers transferred to the vaccine establishment, vaccination was practised every morning by all the European surgeons in the island; and those who were stationed in Colombo, in their anxiety to stop the progress of the epidemic smallpox, then prevalent, as well as to satisfy the eager wishes of the natives—who flocked in crowds to the vaccinator, seeking security against that dreadful malady—labored the whole day, and after vaccinating a hundred persons each, were often obliged to put off many additional applicants to another opportunity. In little more than three months, upwards of ten thousand persons were vaccinated in different parts of the island. So early as the end of 1802, almost every one susceptible of infection had, in many villages, submitted to vaccination; the natives in general placed implicit submitted confidence in its efficacy, in preventing smallpox, and that disease had been banished from Hambantotte, after prevailing there from the preceding October. During the first eight months, or up to the end

of April, 1803, the number vaccinated was estimated at fourteen thousand at least; within that year nine thousand persons, chiefly in the south-west parts of the island, were vaccinated, and smallpox was banished from the district of Colombo, in the pettah of which it had been at all times prevalent for nine preceding years.

In March, 1804, vaccination had got into disrepute, and became extinct at Jaffna, from the introduction of a spurious disease in its stead, after passing through which, several persons had caught smallpox and died; but Dr. Christie, having spent the greater part of the month there, and introduced the genuine disease from Trincomalie, the practice was thenceforth as successfully and rapidly extended as in any other part of Ceylon, though the Malabar inhabitants had shown much more aversion to vaccination than the Singhalese of the south and south-west parts of the island. By April, 1804, twenty-one thousand individuals had been vaccinated, and smallpox had been banished from the populous districts of Galle and Matura, as well as of Hambantotte and Colombo.

From the time when smallpox had disappeared in Colombo, the indifference of the people to vaccination increased daily, and the vaccinators were frequently obliged to search for them in their villages; so that with all their exertions, not above eight thousand were vaccinated in 1804. The prevalence, or reported prevalence, of smallpox in the Kandian country in the month of May, 1805, created alarm in the frontier, and increased the number of applications for vaccination, and in January, 1806, smallpox was extinct in the district of Jaffna, where it had been kept up longer, from the cause already mentioned, than in other parts of the island.

In the following February a man landed from the Coast with smallpox, during the pearl fishery at Aripo; and the disease being communicated to a few others, was carried to Colombo, on the breaking up of the fishery in April, but did not spread to any extent: no one who had been vaccinated caught it; and the alarm created by its appearance greatly increased the number of vaccinations. In January, 1807, smallpox appeared and spread in the district of Trincomalie, and from thence found its way to Jaffna; but was banished from both places during the year by the beneficial influence of vaccination. The number vaccinated was considerably greater in this than in any former year, particularly amongst the Malabar inhabitants of the Trincomalie and Jaffna districts, amounting to 21,870, or nearly double the annual average of the period which had then elapsed from the introduction of vaccination. From May, 1806, through 1807, occasional cases of smallpox occurred in Colombo pettah; but in January, 1808, the disease was extinct not only in the Colombo district but in the whole of the British possessions in Ceylon. On the 31st of that month, however, it was imported into the district of Galle by a Maldivian boat from Bengal: a large proportion of the crew died, and the disease was communicated by a fisherman, who had visited the boat on its first arrival, to two or three inhabitants of the neighborhood; but it spread no further. In 1808, 26,207 persons were vaccinated,

Smallpox existed in no part of the island from February, 1808, to Oc-

tober, 1809, when it was carried to Jaffnapatnam by a country boat from Quilon. The contagion spread to a few individuals, in the pettah only, who had not been vaccinated, and was introduced by a civil prisoner into the jail of that place; but its progress was immediately arrested by the indiscriminate vaccination of all the prisoners; and it found its way to no other part of the island, except to Putlam, where a cooly from Jaffna was taken ill of the disease in December, and recovered without communicating it to any other person. On this, as on all similar occasions, the appearance of smallpox had the good effect of proving the preservative efficacy of vaccination, and of rousing the people from their apathy in regard to it; for no fewer than 1830 persons were vaccinated in the district of Jaffna, in the two last months of 1809, and amongst them several Bramins, men and women, who had hitherto declined submitting to the operation. Yet the total number vaccinated in 1809 was five hundred less than in 1808, being 25,697.

In January, 1810, there remained only six cases of smallpox in Jaffna; the disease was kept up for some time longer by one of the native headmen, who persisted in inoculating with variolous matter, in defiance of a government order forbidding it; and smallpox was detected the same year in several other districts, but did not spread to any extent; only one case occurred in the district of Colombo, in a person who was ascertained to have brought the disease from the Kandian country, and there was no instance of any one who had gone through cowpox having received the contagion. The presence of smallpox this year seems to have given an unusually strong impulse to vaccination, for the number vaccinated was 35,076, or more than double the annual average of the preceding eight years.

In February, 1813, two recruits for the second Ceylon regiment, laboring under smallpox, landed from the Coast at Chilaw; but the disease did not spread, and with this exception we find no mention of it from 1810 to the middle of 1819; and this *inestimable blessing was conferred on Ceylon by vaccination.*

The absence of smallpox from the island for so long a period had the unfortunate effect of causing an annual diminution in the numbers vaccinated, from 35,076 in 1810, to 13,010, in the maritime districts, and 13,563 in the whole island in 1818. Vaccination had been first introduced into the Kandian provinces so lately as September, 1816, and the total number vaccinated therein, up to the end of June, 1819, was 8,291. In the middle of that year, therefore, a great proportion of the inhabitants of the maritime districts, as well as of the Kandian provinces, were unvaccinated; and it is now my painful task to draw your attention to the lamentable consequences of this want of ordinary prudence and foresight—of this strange indifference to the future welfare of themselves and of their families.

Smallpox was introduced in the month of July, 1819, by the master of a dhoney from the Malabar coast, and was first discovered in Banks-hall, Colombo pattah, among some families who had concealed him. It spread rapidly, seized in a very short time a vast number of people, soon overstepped the bounds of the Colombo district, and, making its way to

the Kandian provinces, there committed great ravages. On the first appearance of the disease, hopes were entertained that it might be prevented from spreading by regulating the communication with infected persons; but it was soon found that the contagion had diffused itself much more widely than had been suspected, and it became necessary to adopt other measures. With the view, therefore, of arresting the progress, and saving as many people as possible from its grasp, all the means that the country afforded of carrying vaccination into effect were placed at the disposal of the vaccine department. Nor did the care of the government "stop with the means of increasing the practice of vaccination—it extended itself to providing accommodation, food, and medical attendance, for such unfortunate sufferers from the disease as were willing to avail themselves of them. The charitable hospital in the pettah of Colombo was thrown open for the reception of smallpox patients, and establishments for the reception and care of patients of the same description were made at every post in the maritime districts and Kandian provinces, at which a medical officer was stationed. These establishments were soon crowded with sick, and the returns from them, observes Dr. Farrell, "evinced at once their utility and necessity." In Kandy, also, an attempt was made to check the progress of the disease, by separating the sick from the healthy; but notwithstanding every exertion, the hospital became crowded and inadequate for the accommodation of all the candidates for admission. It was, therefore, necessary to confine the admissions to the more indigent and destitute of the afflicted; and "indeed a large proportion of the patients, latterly received into the hospital, were individuals whose relations had completely deserted them. Thus abandoned by every one, they were often found lying in the streets, in a very advanced stage of the disease. People were appointed to convey cases of this kind to the hospital, where, although in many instances little could be done for them, in regard to the exhibition of medicine, they received that attention which their condition required.

During the six months, terminating on the 15th January, 1820, in the maritime districts alone, 5,451 persons were ascertained to have had the disease, and 1,745 to have died, being nearly in the proportion of 1 to 3, or more exactly of 10 to 31: and, during the five months terminating on the same day, in the Kandian provinces, 2,423 were admitted into hospitals established for their accommodation, and 1,200 died, being nearly in the proportion of 1 to 2: into the Kandy hospital alone 931 persons were admitted, and 525 of them died, being in the proportion of about 10 to 18. The total number of cases reported to government in the six months, during which chiefly the disease seems to have prevailed, was 7,874; and the total number of deaths 2,945, being in the proportion of 10 to 26.

[To be continued.]

## THE MINERAL SPRINGS AT AVON.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

ALIBERT has truly observed, "*La science des eaux minerales est à refaire*;" for however advanced their chemical history may be, their medical history has received very little attention. It is true, analyses have been published of a few of the most celebrated mineral waters in the United States, and their chemical constitution has become generally known; but very little has been said of their medicinal properties, and application to the cure of diseases. We are told, for instance, generally; that certain waters are useful in rheumatism of the inflammatory grade; we are not informed, however, in what particular stage of that disease they are useful, or what is the proper mode of using them.

"To know the composition of a mineral water," says Bergman, "is to outrun, in some degree, our experience." A medicinal compound is presented for our consideration; if it be composed of substances, the medicinal efficacy of which is known and appreciated, a knowledge of the laws of the animal economy will serve to instruct us what its action on the human system will be. In regard to many mineral waters, there is, it is true, a great discrepancy between the deductions of experience and those of analysis. This may be accounted for, by considering the powerful efficacy of pure water apart from all the foreign ingredients which it contains; and again, it is not improbable, that the action of some waters which contain but very minute proportions of certain medicinal agents, is proportionate, not to the quantity of these agents, but to a change produced by them in the other constituents of the waters. The activity of the Bath and Buxton waters is, as yet, wholly unexplained by analysis; and many cures have undoubtedly been effected by waters remarkable for their purity.

An intimate acquaintance with the effects of the constituent principles of any compound, separately considered, is of great importance, in order to enable us properly to appreciate the share of influence which each has in its general effect. Viewing, in this manner, the nature of the hydrosulphurous waters of Avon, we find them distinguished for the large quantity of free hydrosulphuric acid (sulphuretted hydrogen) which they contain—a compound, as is well known, of sulphur and hydrogen.

Sulphur\* is a laxative and diaphoretic; its action on the mucous membranes, particularly those of the lungs, entitles it to some consideration as an expectorant; it increases the secretions from the alimentary canal, and solicits the excitement of the fluids towards the skin. In some diseases of the skin, it is considered one of the most essential remedies we possess. The change in its chemical constitution, which follows its union with hydrogen in mineral waters, appears to modify and increase its therapeutic action.

Again, we find Avon water impregnated with an alkaline carbonate

\* It is not to sulphur, but its various combinations, that is due the character of hydrosulphurous waters. Sulphur is not soluble in water; but the hydrogen, the oxygen, and the alkalies, combine with it readily, and form compounds which are soluble in water and mineralize it.



(carbonate of lime), which substance manifests a peculiar action upon the lymphatic system of vessels, producing the speedy resolution of glandular engorgements and indurations, both cellular and visceral; its effects on the urinary organs are manifested, both by exciting them to action, in the same manner as diuretics properly so called, and also by changing their secretions; hence it is used in scrofula, and some diseases of the bladder. The sulphates of lime, magnesia, and soda, are other compounds found in this water. The last two are saline aperients, or purgatives, according to the dose in which they are administered; and the efficacy of this water in increasing the discharges from the alimentary canal, is, in a measure, to be attributed to this impregnation.

The *chloride of calcium* is, in small doses, a tonic or deobstruent; and has been successfully used in typhous fever, ill-conditioned ulcers, and in some diseases of the skin.

The medicinal effects of the substance should, we think, be considered as of two kinds: first, its *immediate* action upon the human system; and second, its *curative* effect in the removal of disease. This is another substance which is found in small quantities in these mineral waters.

In viewing the phenomena which very soon follow the internal use of the Avon water, it is important that we designate the peculiar action which is the foundation of all its curative effects.

This *primitive* or fundamental action is modified by a variety of circumstances, so that some degree of obscurity envelopes it; other things being equal, however, it is more or less intense, according as the constitution and temperament of the patient, and the nature of his disease, render him more or less susceptible. This effect is an increased action of the heart and arteries, as exhibited by a greater fullness, strength and frequency of pulse, a general sensation of warmth, a flushing of the face, and other evidences of increased action, which vary much in different individuals. Plethoric subjects, on using this water without due precautions, experience a heavy and dull sensation of the head, a propensity to sleep, and other symptoms which indicate a determination of the fluids towards the head. Others, again, whose stomachs are preternaturally irritable, experience a distressing nausea for some time after its use, or reject it altogether by vomiting. Particular local diseases determine the effect produced by this agent, and serve to explain the mode of its operation. Where local inflammation has existed, and the part has not yet recovered its power of resisting morbid impressions, a return of the previous inflammation may be induced by its incautious use. Cases of this nature are frequent; one, however, will serve to illustrate my meaning.

In the summer of 1833, I was called to visit a young gentleman from Middletown, Connecticut, 18 years of age, suffering from a renewed attack of acute rheumatism. He had resorted to these springs by advice of a distinguished physician, when but partially recovered from a long and painful course of this disease. Instead of using the quantity prescribed by the physician, he drank, in three days, nearly four gallons of the water; and the result was, as might be expected, a renewal of

this painful malady. In short, this immediate effect sometimes consists in a febrile excitement, not morbid, which restores the action of the weakened organs, and rouses them from their torpid and engorged state; the skin, the cutaneous and sub-cutaneous tissue, the urinary organs, the intestinal and pulmonary mucous membranes, become vividly excited, and the excitement is frequently prolonged for some time after the use of the waters; sometimes, even for weeks.

This *primitive* action of the Avon water produces, consecutively, *secondary* or curative effects, which are, a perceptible increase of the secretions from the alimentary canal, the augmentation of the cutaneous and pulmonary respiration, and of the secretion of urine; in other words, they become cathartic, diaphoretic, expectorant and diuretic.

In regard to the cathartic operation of this water, we find some upon whose digestive organs it acts promptly and effectually; others, again, upon whom the largest doses produce not the slightest effect. In some cases, the water acts readily at first; and, in a short time, perhaps after the first week, seems rather to produce constipation. This disparity of action we conceive to be owing to some peculiar state or condition of some of the organs of the individual using the water, which renders them more or less susceptible to its influence; what this state or condition is, in the present imperfect state of our knowledge of hydrosulphurous waters, it is impossible to determine: a long course of observation and numerous cases are necessary to decide with any degree of exactness. In some cases which I have seen, the stimulant effect has been perceptible upon the skin solely; and it would appear probable, that the excretions from the cutaneous surface were so abundant as to deprive the system of all the products of intestinal action. Generally four or six half pint glasses, drank during twenty-four hours, produce a mild cathartic effect; and under its long-continued use to this extent, no debility ensues, but, on the contrary, the appetite and strength are very much increased.

It is, however, for its action upon the skin particularly, that this water is conspicuous. This increased activity which the functions of the skin receive, is manifested by an itching sensation, or, as it has been described, a feeling similar to that of the stinging of small insects; and there is often a florid color of the body, showing the high degree of capillary excitement produced. There is also, in most cases, a sensible increase of perspiration; and frequently, even gentle exercise produces profuse sweating. The unctuous feeling of the surface of the body, on leaving the bath, also shows the capacity of this mineral water to cleanse the skin: the alkaline carbonate, which is one of its component parts, forming a species of soap with the oily matter collected upon the epidermis.

"As a striking example of their alterative influence on the cutaneous surface," says Dr. Francis,\* "I may mention the case of an individual, now in the twenty-second year of his age, incommoded by congenital ichthyosis; and whom I recommended to repair to these springs last sea-



son. The free use of these waters, internally and by bathing, for some ten weeks, so effectually removed this morbid alteration of the skin, as in divers parts to leave no trace of the previous existence of disfiguration."

Other instances, equally remarkable, might annually be adduced, illustrative of the diaphoretic effect of this water. Cures of the most obstinate herpetic, psorous and leprous eruptions, are very numerous; and are matter of astonishment to those unacquainted with the powers of this medicine.

This water possesses, also, a peculiar property of stimulating the urinary organs. This property is manifested, not only by the discharges of urine being more copious, but also by the changes produced in the quality of the urine. Some hours after its use, either internally or externally, the urine becomes more highly colored, depositing a sediment.

I have stated that this water is an expectorant; and this property, from experience in very many cases, I accord to it most fully. It is not merely by a sympathetic effect, that the pulmonary organs are affected, but the simple respiration in an atmosphere so highly charged with hydrosulphuric acid gas as that around the spring, must have an immediate action upon the mucous membrane.

In restoring the normal secretions from the skin and bladder, there can be no doubt but the pulmonary functions are benefited: and this action is direct; for, by a revulsion or counter-excitation, we remove any local determination which may give rise to pulmonary irritation, and thus the lungs are invigorated and enabled to expectorate any offensive matter. In the administration of this remedy in cases of pulmonary disease, the utmost caution is required, as it will be readily perceived that the misapplication of a medicine endowed with such power of excitation, cannot but be attended with the most fatal consequences.

*August, 1838.*

# NEW HAMPSHIRE MEDICAL SOCIETY.

*To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

SIR,—THE following are some of the proceedings of the New Hampshire Medical Society at its last annual meeting. JAMES B. ABBOTT, Sec.

The Society celebrated its forty-seventh Anniversary at the Phoenix Hotel in Concord, on the 5th and 6th of June. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year.

Enos Hoyt, Northfield, *President.*

Luke Howe, Jaffrey, *Vice President.*

James B. Abbott, Boscawen, *Secretary.*

Dixi Crosby, Meredith, *Treasurer.*

*Counsellors.*—John Carr, Sandbornton; Jacob Straw, Henniker; Stephen Drew, Milton; Noah Martin, Dover; Francis P. Fitch, New Boston; Micah Eldridge, Nashua; Reuben D. Mussey, Hanover; Daniel Oliver, Hanover; Thomas Bassett, Kingston; Josiah Bartlett, Stratham; James Bachelder, Marlborough; Samuel Webber, Charlestown,

*Censors.*—Moses Hill, Northwood; R. P. J. Tenney, Loudon; John

P. Elkins, New Durham ; Joseph H. Smith, Dover ; Thomas Bassett, Kingston ; Josiah Bartlett, Stratham ; Amos Twitchell, Keene ; Luke Howe, Jaffrey ; Matthias Spaulding, Amherst ; Richard Williams, Milford ; R. D. Mussey, Hanover ; Daniel Oliver, Hanover.

John C. Page, Gilmanton ; Moses Hill, Northwood, *Delegates to Hanover.*

Timothy Haynes, Concord ; James F. Sargent, Hopkinton, *Orators for 1839.*

The following gentlemen were elected Fellows of the Society, viz. :—Jeremiah F. Hall, Wolfborough ; Josiah Bartlett, Stratham ; Silas Cummings, Fitzwilliam ; Charles W. Whitney, Troy ; Eliphalet K. Webster, Hill ; and Francis P. Fitch, New Boston.

Heber Chase, M.D., of Philadelphia, and Ezra Green, M.D., of Dover, were elected honorary members.

A committee was chosen to examine into the merits of the different trusses, professing to effect the radical cure of hernia, to report at the next meeting.

The subject of a National Medical Convention was taken up, and after some discussion was referred to a select committee. The committee reported favorably, and thereupon the Society voted to recommend an Annual National Convention, to consist of delegates from the various medical schools and societies in the Union ; that the first convention be proposed to be holden A. D. 1840, and that the Secretary send a notice of this vote to the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, and to the American Journal of Medical Sciences.

A committee was chosen, two years since, by the Society, to investigate the condition of our New England manufacturing establishments, especially as regards their influence upon the health, morals and religion of the operatives in them. At the last meeting, Professor Mussey, chairman of said committee, made a valuable report, in which he shows, conclusively, that this influence generally is far from being salutary. With regard to it upon the health of the operatives, he brings forward facts showing that the air in which they labor is frequently highly impure, their food unhealthy, the change of temperature to which they are exposed frequently great and sudden, without a proportionable change of clothing ; their sleeping apartments often crowded and poorly ventilated, &c., all which easily accounts for the emaciated forms, pallid countenances and early graves of our once healthy daughters.

The Society, and, indeed, the Faculty of New Hampshire, are about to suffer a loss which will be *felt*, in the removal of Professor Mussey from the State. For upwards of twenty years he has been a distinguished and efficient member of the Society, and has sustained its highest office for many years. His last address was listened to with profound attention and deep emotion.

After a busy session of two days the Society adjourned, sine die, and the members departed for their distant homes, with the impression that it was good that they had been together.

## NARCOTIC POISONS.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—If you think the following worth publishing, you are at liberty to use it.

In the year 1831 I was called to a child, of six months of age, who by mistake had taken one drachm of the tincture of opium. The mother supposed she had used elixir asthmatic until two or three hours after the dose was administered, when finding herself unable to awake the child, she became alarmed and sent for me. Five or six hours had now elapsed since the dose was taken. Stupor, convulsions, dilatation of the pupils, pulselessness, rapid and anxious respiration, with colliquative sweats, indicated a speedy dissolution. Internal and external stimulants, warm bath, frictions, with emetics of ipecac and zinc, and irritating the fauces with a feather, were in their turn ineffectually tried. Recollecting the advantage sometimes derived from large doses of sulphuric ether in the last stage of fever threatening fatal collapse, I administered two drachms, which produced a slight spasm of the muscles of deglutition. In ten or fifteen minutes I gave a large spoonful more, which caused a violent spasm and symptoms of suffocation. The child cried, vomited freely, opened its eyes, and for a few moments seemed to notice individuals about him, and then sank again in profound sleep. External irritants were renewed, and two drachms more of ether given, which produced immediate vomiting. Enemas of salt and water were now ordered, and one drachm of ether every twenty or twenty-five minutes. After each dose of the ether vomiting would ensue, and more encouraging symptoms follow. The child gradually recovered.

Two years after, a child of five or six years of age was found stupid in the road, with a branch of *cicuta virosa* in its hand. The case was supposed by myself and others a fatal one; especially as emetics and irritants had been freely used. Having no sulphuric ether at hand, I sent some distance for it. It did not fail me in this instance, but produced an analogous effect to the case before mentioned.

I was called, last May, to a family who had taken a large quantity of the *veratrum viride*, which was ignorantly gathered with other vegetables. Five individuals partook largely of the dinner. In thirty or forty minutes they felt extreme sickness and distress at the epigastrium, and several ineffectual attempts were made to vomit. Prostration, cold extremities, with severe agues, soon followed. Being absent from home, I did not see them until nearly three hours had elapsed. So great was the prostration that in two of them no pulse could be found in the radial arteries, and but slight in the carotids. I was told their distress had been excruciating. With three of them spasms of the stomach and respiratory organs were frequent and severe. These, with constant and ineffectual retchings, temporary delirium, and colliquative sweats, were the more prominent symptoms. At this time I did not know what poisonous article had been taken, and from the fact that no vomiting had ensued, I concluded it must be something else than the *veratrum*. I immediately administered to each of them half an ounce of sulphuric ether, and ap-

plied a strong paste of mustard to the epigastrium and extremities. Three of them immediately vomited and threw off a large quantity of vegetables; while the two most prostrated and apparently near death, seemed not affected. To them I repeated the dose every ten or fifteen minutes, used frictions of strong tinct. of capsicum, and enemas of brandy, when after a lapse of forty or fifty minutes free vomiting ensued, pulse and warmth returned, and the patients gradually recovered. Enemas of salt and water, and a full dose of castor oil, with the free use of strong coffee and mucilaginous drinks, completed the course of treatment. Whether vomiting or purging would have taken place had nothing been administered to secure the effect, I know not. Authors speak of both these effects occurring when an over-dose of the veratrum has been taken. More than three hours having elapsed before vomiting came on, and the ineffectual retching, together with the prostrated state of the system, seem to forbid that supposition. After close examination I could find no other poisonous article, except the veratrum, had been used, but this, from the account given me, had been used in large proportions.

I would not, by the few hints advanced respecting the efficacy of ether, claim for it a priority above all other remedies. I do not suppose that it will always operate thus favorably, having known one instance where it probably was faithfully administered without any decided benefit. Whether emetics would have operated, I do not know, but have much reason, from former experience, to suppose that in two of the cases, at least, they would not, and most obviously no benefit could have been derived from the stomach pump, had it been used. S. A. HUBBARD.

*Bloomfield, Con., July, 1838.*

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## BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

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BOSTON, AUGUST 15, 1838.

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### PROCEEDINGS OF THE PHYSICO-MED. SOCIETY OF NEW ORLEANS.

A PAMPHLET of thirty pages, by the authority of the members, has been published, and probably widely circulated, relating exclusively to the trial and unanimous expulsion of Charles A. Luzenberg, M.D., from the Society on the 21st of June, which has before been alluded to in this Journal. Being remote from the theatre of this very extraordinary transaction, we cannot be supposed to entertain prejudices, nor be disposed to exercise partiality in commenting upon the subject. Dr. Luzenberg seems, from the representations in this document, to have been, till very recently, a man of considerable medical reputation as a practitioner in New Orleans. In 1834 he was professor of the Principles and Practice of Surgery, and professor, *ad interim*, of Anatomy, in the Medical College of Louisiana. On this circumstance is based the supposition that he must have been considered above medical mediocrity at the time of election, certainly, however ignorant, stupid and immoral he may since have shown himself. The report declares expressly that "Dr. Luzenberg is a man of an ordinary capacity, very little improved

by education and study. As a professional man his pretensions are without bounds, while his merits lie within very narrow limits. He has a little acuteness of apprehension, but no solidity of judgment. In surgical operations he frequently exhibits some dexterity in the use of instruments, but he seldom fails to expose the want of that knowledge which makes dexterity skill, and elevates a mere manipulator into a scientific surgeon. Having been a long time employed in hospitals, as a surgeon, he has a boldness of manner which passes on others, and perhaps on himself, for that genuine confidence which springs from accurate learning and enlightened experience. Called in the infancy of the Medical College of Louisiana to a professorship in that institution, he was subsequently obliged to retire, from a sense of the contempt felt towards him by his confrères, and by the medical class, on account of his mendacity, ignorance, presumption, and ill-breeding. He is abrupt in speech, uncouth in manners, irritable and petulant in temper, and arrogant and overbearing in his demeanor." This is plain English, indeed! Dr. L. is an Austrian by birth, but has resided in this country about twenty years, and received a diploma at the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. He is thirty-eight years of age. In the passport granted him by the Secretary of State of the United States, in 1832, on commencing his travels in Europe, the description of his person reads thus—"Age, 27; stature, 5 feet 7½ inches high; forehead, high; nose, small; eyes, grey; mouth, ordinary; chin, round; hair, light; complexion, fair; face, round." To finish this singular picture, it is necessary to add that Dr. Luzenberg is a duellist, having had a hostile meeting with Dr. McFarlane; and as a preparatory step—fully acting upon the sage precept that "prudence is the better part of valor"—he was in the habit of suspending the bodies of persons who had died under his care whilst house surgeon of the Charity Hospital, and shooting at them, as marks, with a pistol—in order, says the declaration of Mr. J. C. Ker, "to improve his skill as a marksman in his expected contest with Dr. McFarlane, I myself having witnessed the fact." Thus we have gleaned the prominent characteristics of this unaccountably strange gentleman, from the pamphlet, and leave our readers to their own reflections. The wonder is how he ever became a member of the Physico-Medical Society, or obtained even a temporary standing in a community at all capable of appreciating professional merit and good breeding.

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*The New York Lancet.*—Mr. Wakley's success with the London Lancet has induced the parturition of many similar instruments in this and other countries, which proved, however, on trial, to be only poor imitations, and consequently died soon after birth. A prospectus is now before the public for another, the New York Lancet, under the editorship of B. W. Cohen. The size will correspond with the London, but will appear only every other week, at four dollars a year, payable in advance; and to insure success—a most prudent consideration—the first number will not be issued till *eight hundred subscribers* have been obtained—and all of them have planked l'argent in advance. No reason in the world can be given why the great City of New York should not maintain one of the most efficient, spirited and talented medical periodicals on the Continent. Still, from a recollection of many former efforts to that effect, in by-gone years, we do not hesitate to predict the failure of the proposed Journal. In the first place it is no small undertaking to procure

eight hundred advance-paying subscribers to any sort of periodical in the United States, even when controlled by the highest order of intellect. The quarterlies, could they talk, would make woful lamentations about delinquents, broken promises and neglected bills. Unless, then, the New York Lancet possesses the persuasive power of withdrawing subscriptions from all the old, well-established Journals, north and south—aye, in the far west too, it must either fall into the bad custom of receiving subscriptions as they usually come, on credit, with no intention, perhaps, of ever paying in many instances, or circulate a very limited paper. If a change of a provokingly bad system could be brought about, it would be a proud achievement, for which the New York Lancet should have the mead of praise; but, alas! though "order is Heaven's first law," there is no order in a printer's patronage.

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*American Hospitals.*—If any of our readers would transmit a catalogue of the principal hospitals, in the United States, it would very much oblige, and shall be returned, shortly, if such is the requisition. Canadian hospitals, particularly at Quebec and Montreal, and also all similar institutions at Halifax and its neighborhood, are also coveted at this particular juncture.

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*Chronic Ophthalmia.*—A chronic conjunctivitis prevailed for several years in Prague, affecting particularly the conjunctiva of the upper eyelid, and ending in pannus, especially among the poor, who but too often neglected the disease in its early stage. Dr. Fischer—a pupil of Beer, who has an extensive eye hospital in which patients are treated and boarded gratis—tried various means for removing the granular state of the lids in this disease, without effect. Touching the diseased surface with nitrate of silver seemed rather to favor the progress of the symptoms in question than to abate it. At the time of Dr. Thane's visit, he employed a salve composed of from half a grain to three grains of white precipitate of mercury and a drachm of lard, which he pencilled pretty freely on the inner surface of the eyelids and over the eyeball twice a day. Internal remedies and counter-irritation he considered useless in this disease; and, indeed, he seldom employed blisters in any case. Among Dr. Fischer's morbid preparations of the eye, is one of ossification of the retina and choroid, extending as far forward as the attachment of the iris. The ossification corresponds exactly to the globular figure of the eye, and its inner surface is studded with minute irregular exostoses. He also possesses hundreds of lenses which he has extracted, and is thus able to show his pupils the remarkable differences they present in form, color, size, consistence, &c.

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*Statistics of Amputations practised after the Siege of Constantine.*—The total number of amputations during the whole of the campaign amounted to 29, viz.: of the thigh, 8; of the leg, 5; of the arm, 3; forearm, 1; at the wrist, 1; at the knee-joint, 3; at the shoulder-joint, 2; partial amputation of the foot, 3; resection of the head of the humerus, 3. Of these 29 operations, only 6 terminated favorably, viz.: 1 of the thigh, 2 of the leg, 2 of the arm, and 1 of the wrist. It should, however, be mentioned that the cholera broke out in the hospital immediately after



the capture of Constantine, and carried off at least seven or eight of the amputated patients.—*French Gazette.*

*Wound of the Ascending Arch of the Aorta. Spontaneous Cure.*—The following remarkable case shows to what an extent the curative powers of nature may occasionally be carried :—

J. H., 32 years of age, a strong, robust soldier of the Bavarian army, received, in 1812, a stab of a knife, which penetrated the chest between the fifth and sixth ribs. The man fell to the earth without consciousness, and remained there for more than an hour exposed to extreme cold. In this situation he was discovered by Dr. Neil, of Bramberg, who, although the patient seemed on the point of death, thought it right to bring the edges of the wound together, and had the man conveyed to the hospital. At the expiration of two or three hours, the hæmorrhage continuing abundantly, the man came to himself but could distinguish nothing ; he was affected with an incurable amaurosis. After a few weeks the wound healed completely ; the man now left the hospital, and to console himself for his infirmity gave himself up to drink, which at length, in 1813, brought on a fatal pneumonia.

On examining the body it was found that the wound traversed the lungs completely across, the entrance and exit of the knife being marked by cicatrices ; at the level of one of the cicatrices a solution of continuity was discovered in the ascending aorta ; it was about a quarter of a line in length, and closed with firm fibrine. The artery was now removed with caution, and divided internally, when a small cicatrix, corresponding with the external lesion, was discovered in the inner parietes of the vessel, thus showing that the three coats of the artery had been divided by the instrument.—*Arch. Général.*

*Dartmouth College.*—This venerable institution of learning seems to be undergoing a pretty thorough internal revolution. Not only an almost entire change has been made in the medical department, but in the academical, also, those who have long been identified with the interests of the College, are giving way to another generation. Dr. Oliver W. Holmes, of Boston, has been elected to the chair of Anatomy, and Dr. Elisha Bartlett, of Lowell, Mass. and Dr. Dixi Crosby, of New Hampshire, appointed to the chairs of Theory and Practice, and Surgery, which they are abundantly qualified to sustain with honor to themselves and the College which has so wisely selected them.

☞ No. 3, Vol. XIV. of the Medical Journal has been reprinted, and can be furnished to those subscribers who are in want of it. Sets of the Journal can now be supplied as far back as Vol. XIII. inclusive. Two of the previous Vols. are incomplete. Vols. XIII. and XIV. contain the whole of the protracted controversy on diet.—The Title-page and Index of Vol. XVIII. will be sent with the next No.

DIED.—In Lowville, N. Y., Dr. Sylvester Miller. On being called in the night, he arose, and on his passage to the outer door, inadvertently opened one leading to the cellar, and fell to the bottom. He died in about 48 hours, his skull having been broken.

Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending August 11th, 50. Males, 25—females, 25. Consumption, 5—delirium tremens, 1—dropsy, 2—teething, 2—scarlet fever, 5—hooping cough, 1—canker in the bowels, 2—canker, 1—bowel complaint, 1—cramp, 1—cholera infantum, 2—dysentery, 3—diarrhoea, 3—erysipelas, 1—by lightning, 1—burn, 1—drowned, 1—cholera morbus, 1—marasmus, 1—disease of the heart, 1—infantile, 2—syphilis, 1—jaundice, 1—cancer, 1—stillborn, 1.

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Two subscribers are associated for the purpose of giving a complete course of medical instruction, and will receive pupils on the following terms:

The pupils will be admitted to the practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital, and will receive clinical lectures on the cases they witness there. Instruction, by lectures or examinations, will be given in the intervals of the public lectures, every week day.

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Oct. 18—tf

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For further information, application may be made at the room, over 103 Hanover street, or to the subscribers.

Boston, August 9, 1837.

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Boston, August 1, 1838.

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## HARVARD UNIVERSITY—MEDICAL LECTURES.

The Lectures will begin at the College in Mason street, first Wednesday in November, at 9 o'clock, A. M., and continue three months. For a month after, additional lectures will be given. Dissections in the Medical College, and attendance at the Hospital, will also be continued.

Anatomy and Operative Surgery, by	Dr. J. C. WARREN.
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Circulars of the Medical and Surgical Practice of the Hospital may be had of the Dean.

WALTER CHANNING,  
Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

Boston, July 23, 1838.

Aug 1—tN

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The house now occupied by Dr. Eli Hall, together with 30 or 40 acres of good land. The house is well constructed, two stories high, almost new, in good style, large and commodious rooms, superior cellar, wood-house, well, carriage-house, and horse-barn attached. Also a variety of excellent, selected fruit trees—cherries, plums, pears and apples. Possession given to suit the purchaser. Few situations can be found more desirable for a physician or lawyer. Terms very low.

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Blanford, Mass., August, 1838.

Aug 8—6w

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